

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SECRET - GDS

ACTION

August 5, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE

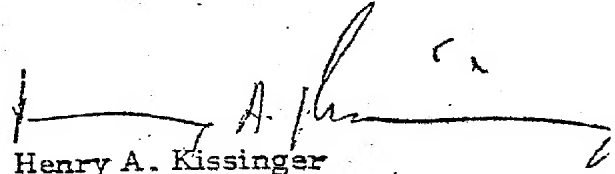
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SUBJECT: Indochina Refugees in Thailand

As a result of Pathet Lao actions to gain complete control of the Provisional Government of National Union in Laos, approximately 23,000 Meo tribesmen have been forced to seek refuge in Thailand. There is every reason to believe that these Meo refugees will desire to remain in Thailand as long as the Communists control Laos.

Spokesmen for the Royal Thai Government have indicated Thai willingness in principle to permit the Meo to remain in Thailand if adequate financial assistance is provided by the United States.

It is requested that a working group comprising representatives of the addressees, and under the chairmanship of the representative of the Department of State, on a priority basis develop a plan for the permanent resettlement of the Meo refugees in Thailand. Knowledge of this plan should be limited to a strictly need-to-know basis. This plan should be forwarded for the President's review no later than August 15, 1975.


Henry A. Kissinger

cc: Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Director, Office of Management and Budget

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